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Department of State

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AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

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Charges Against Retired Scientists and Engineers

Rio 3159, 3242, 3198, 3251, 3250 and São Paulo 373

From several sources, most of whom have been conservatively orientated, pro government, scientists and engineers the reporting officer has been able to piece together a picture of the probable official charges against several of the recently retired professors. The following vignettes are interesting per se for their curious blend of fact and fiction. Perhaps they are equally interesting for the light they throw on the rationale behind the government's policy in retiring professors. For ease of reference and presentation, sources are identified as follows:

Source A: Is a senior Brazilian engineer and scientist, ultra-conservative, claims to have had access to files detailing charges, is suspected by the reporting officer of having cooperated with Brazilian intelligence organizations and has been a regular source of reliable reports on the conservative points of view.

Source B: Is a high level government administrator and senior scientist who claims to have seen "several" of the controversial case files.

Source C: Is a medium level, more or less conservative government official, who claims to have examined certain case files on behalf of his agency.

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He has been a regular and reliable reporter on all facets of official involvement in the scientific and technological community. He was accused of being "left" in 1964.

Source D: Is a senior, internationally recognized scientist, politically middle-of-the-road by United States standards, considered liberal locally by his colleagues, who has confirmed access to the secret files of several government agencies. The reliability of his past reporting has been excellent.

Source E: Is an apolitical senior scientist with alleged sources of information among far left and liberal students and professors. He has been a uniformly reliable source.

Source F: A progressive, but basically conservative, senior Brazilian military officer. His reporting has been infrequent but as far as can be determined, reliable.

The case histories as they have emerged from the above sources are as follows:

Case I: Mario Shenberg

Sources: A, B, C, D, and F.

Charges: A known and self-admitted communist, who was a member of the Communist Party Central Committee, and has been instrumental in subverting large numbers of students at the University of São Paulo. Also, he is accused of trying to wreck the physics department at that university.

Comments: Charges tally well with Shenberg's known activities and affiliations and if anything only fail to reflect the full range of his subversive talents.

Case II: Jaime Tironi

Sources: A confirmed by B, C and F.

Charges: He was charged with being a very dangerous "communist," who took over from Shenberg, some time ago, the slot of the "scientific representative on the Central Committee of the Communist Party." He is reputed to be especially dangerous for having maintained a cover of timidity, apoliticalness, and indeed even cooperation with the government.

Comments:

EO50x1
General embassy reporting generally supports the widely held belief in the Brazilian scientific community that Tioeme actually cooperated with the government authorities last year to ease Shenberg out of his position in the physics department at São Paulo.

Case III: José Leite Lopes

Sources: A, B, C, D and F.

Charges: Leite Lopes was accused of being a "communist," of having used his position to agitate the students, and of having worked closely with "that notorious communist Shenberg."

Comments:

EO50x1
the charges on the whole appear to be fairly true and reasonable descriptions of Lopes' activities. Source E confirms that far left student elements and professors considered Lopes "to be on their side all the way."

Case IV: Iacina Raw

Sources: A confirmed by B.

Charges: He was charged with having been a "life long communist" who has consistently worked for "the party." Specifically he was charged with having "arranged the computer program" at the computing center of the University of São Paulo so that in the selection of new students for this year "the computer selected 100% communist students and rejected 100% good revolutionary democratic students."

Comment: Source E has indicated that this story is the laughing stock of the student left. Source D and F have indicated that during the computer selection process heavy political pressure was brought on Raw because certain military and political figures (unspecified) were upset that their sons and daughters had not been selected for the university by the computer. In their view, Raw paid the price for having a fair selection process. From an objective point of view this case would certainly seem to rank as one of the least likely to be factually substantive. Short of a truly monumental conspiracy the computer program simply could not be "fixed" as alleged.

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Case V: Alberto de Carvalho da Silva

Sources: A confirmed by B and C.

Charges: He was charged with corruption and mismanagement of the funds of FAPESP (see Rio A-1030 of Sept. 18, 1963).

Comments: These charges are dismissed as absurd by Sources D, E and F. The Scientific Attaché knows this individual and if the charges are true he certainly gives no evidence of having spent the misappropriated funds on himself or family.

Case VI: Milton Bastos

Sources: A only.

Charges: Bastos was accused of corruption in connection with his duties to watch for doping in horse racing, (he is a toxicologist) and unspecified immorality.

Comments: Source C and D consider these charges absurd. In probing Bastos' colleagues about his competency and background the reporting officer found nothing to support such charges.

Case VII: Nello Lourenço de Oliveira

Sources: A confirmed by B.

Charges: He was charged with "dangerous liberalism in university reform," corruption, and being a communist sympathizer.

Comments: As far as the reporting officer has been able to ascertain, Oliveira's real sin appears to have been successful steps toward university reform at São Paulo. Consulate officers in São Paulo have reported a high opinion of the man and his ability.

Case VIII: Luiz Hildebrando Pereira da Silva

Sources: A and B.

Charges: Flagrant immorality with a mistress was the charge against Hildebrando.

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Comment: No one seems to know for sure if Hildebrando had a mistress or not. Source F dryly commented that if true his retirement was understandable and since "no self-respecting Brazilian man would be without a mistress it appears that we are about to retire all good Brazilian males." Somewhat more subtly Source D commented that "the reformers are so anxious to assure good morals among young Brazilians that if they did not remove such immoral influences from the Campuses they simply would not be able to get a good night's sleep with their own mistress!"

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